

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, January 1, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 1, 1841 [1842].

My Dear General, You will perceive from last nights Globe that the debate on the administration Govt. Bank has opened. Mangum is at this moment fulminating against it. From the symptoms I think it will be utterly renounced by both the great parties. Webster, may possibly draw some support for it from some of his northern friends, but as yet I see no evidence that he can bring one man to support it: Rives and Talmadge will try to patch up something out of their conservatism, to rally a squad around those in and out of Congress, but as you prophecied, (in the letter which I took the liberty of publishing just at the meeting of congress,) the Independant Treasury will be again resorted to in some form or other. Banks are so thoroughly odious, that the association of Banks with the Govt. or the making the Govt. itself, a Bank, is a thing that will not be endured by the people. The next presidential Election I think will bring us back to the spot where you left us—with this advantage that the people having been surfeited with the frauds of Whiggery, will abjure them forever.

There seems at this moment to be an exceedingly good state of feeling among the Democratic Leaders. They consult of their course in great kindness together and act with perfect unanimity. If the schisms among the Federal factions shall continue, I have apprehension that they will be too weak to hoop us together. It is fortunate for us that Clay continues to fight us; for Tyler and Webster and Rives would make too little show, to render organization on our side necessary.

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I regret the dilemma in which we are placed in regard to the Tennessee Senator. our friends here generally seem impressed with the idea that however disgraceful the course of the Whigs nothing can justify a refusal on our side to elect. I wish sincerely that some arrangement could be made to have a representation from Tennessee Excluding Bell and 0158 134 Foster. I would rather see any Whigs here than go before the people in the present attitude of things. Give our love to Mrs. Jackson and the children and believe me ever

Yr. mo. af. Friend,